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ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

The occurrence of Upper Permian foraminifers in Northwest Pahang

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Limestones at the abandoned Modal Quarry situated at Gua Panjang (Northwest Pahang) is composed of two successions separated by a disconformity (Azhar, 1990).

The lower succession is dominated by wackestones containing varying amounts of skeletal remains of crinoids and brachiopods. Diagenetic changes have obliterated many of the microfossils and benthic foraminifers were especially susceptible. Nevertheless, benthic foraminifers that had escaped destruction were observed from the middle to upper parts of the lower limestone succession. The foraminiferal assemblage is composed of *Palaeofusulina*, *Reichelina* and *Colaniella*. This assemblage bears similarities with Upper Permian foraminiferal assemblages reported from South Kelantan (Aw *et al.*, 1977) and other places in mainland Southeast Asia (Sakagami & Hatta, 1982; Fontaine, 1986). Thus the occurrence of these microfossils in the lower succession of the Gua Panjang limestones indicates that the age of these limestones is Late Permian.

The upper limestone succession overlying the disconformity is composed mainly of algal boundstone containing varying amounts of corals. One of the limestone clasts within the algal boundstone contains *Colaniella* which indicates that parts of the Upper Permian succession were exposed and eroded prior to the deposition of the algal boundstone. This is consistent with the presence of a disconformable surface separating the two limestone successions here. The age of the algal boundstone is as yet unresolved due to the absence of diagnostic foraminifers. However, evidences of a regression separating Permian and Triassic sequences have been widely reported (Fontaine, 1986). Within the Central Belt of Semenanjung Malaysia, marine sedimentation resumed during the Triassic. Thus it is highly possible that the algal boundstone of Gua Panjang could be of Triassic age.

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